

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to Figs. 3 and 6, each projection 16A, 16B preferably extends generally radially inwardly from the body inner surface [[30]] 32 and generally toward the centerline 13 (and the opposing projection 16B, 16A). As such, the two projections 16A, 16B each extends generally toward the plug centerline 7 when the body 12 is disposed about the plug outer surface 8. As discussed above, the clip opening 17 is defined between the two projections 16A, 16B, specifically between the radially innermost points P_1 of the two projections 16A, 16B, such that a portion of the plug 2 that becomes disposed within the clip interior space S_1 must pass between the two projections 16A, 16B. However, for a clip 10 formed without the two projections 16A, 16B (not preferred), the clip opening 17 is instead defined between the radially innermost points of the body ends 20A, 20B (structure not shown). By having the two projections 16A, 16B, the clip body 12 is able to be formed with a generally semicircular shape, so as to be separately positionable in two different orientations on the plug 2 (as discussed below), while still being sufficiently engageable about the plug outer surface 8 to retain the clip 10 disposed on the plug 2. In other words, if the clip 10 did not have the two projections 16A, 16B for engagement with the plug 2, the clip body 12 should be formed so as to extend more than one hundred eighty degrees about the plug outer surface 8 to prevent the clip 10 from being easily dislodged from the plug 2.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring now to Figs. 1, 2 and 9-13, the retainer clip 10 of the present invention is preferably used with a lock plug 2 having a generally circular cylindrical body 50 with opposing front and rear axial ends 52, 54, respectively, and a keyway 55 extending between the ends 52, 54. An annular groove 56 is located proximal to the body rear end [[52]] 54 is sized to receive the clip 10, as discussed below. The groove 56 extends both radially inwardly from the plug outer surface 8 into the body 50 and circumferentially about the plug centerline 7, and provides an inwardly offset section 8a of the plug outer surface 8. The two plug openings 9A, 9B each extend radially inwardly from the groove 56 and into the body 50 and are angularly spaced apart about the centerline 7 by about one hundred eighty degrees (not indicated). Each plug opening 9A, 9B is bounded by an inner circumferential surface 58 against which a projection inner side edge surface 48 acts, as discussed above. Further, the plug body 50 also has first and second opposing, generally semicircular cut-out sections 62A, 62B that are each sized to separately receive a portion of the hinge 14. Each cutout section 62A, 62B extends radially inwardly from the plug outer surface 8 and axially between the groove 56 and the body rear end 54. Furthermore, the keyway 55 extends into second cut-out section 62B, such the hinge 14 functions as a key tip stop when the clip 10 is located in the second orientation (Fig. 11), as discussed below.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 30 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to Figs. 1 and 9-11, the retainer clip 10 of the present invention is installable upon the plug 2 in a first orientation (Figs. 1 and 10), and alternatively in a second orientation (Fig. 9 and [[12]] 11), in generally the following manner. Preferably, the projection 16B located proximal to the body second end 20B is first inserted into either the second plug opening 9B (first clip orientation) or into the first plug opening 9A (second clip orientation). Then, with the first projection 16A disposed against the plug outer surface section 8a within the groove 56, the clip 10 is pushed generally toward the plug centerline 7 such that first projection rounded edge surface 52 slides against the plug outer surface section 8a toward the other plug opening 9A or 9B, so that the plug 2 wedges the body first end 20A apart from the body second end 20B. Such movement of the body ends 20A, 20B cause the first and second arm portions 22, 24 to pivot generally away from each other about the hinge 14 as a portion 2a of the plug 2 enters the clip interior space S₁. When the first projection 16A slides or "snaps" into the other plug opening 9A or 9B, the first and second arm portions 22, 24 pivot generally back toward each other about the hinge 14 and the clip 10 is fully disposed about or engaged with the plug 2. Specifically, the body contact surface 32 is disposed against the plug outer surface section 8a, the retention surface 18 is disposed generally against the housing end surface 6 (see Fig. 2), and the hinge 14 is disposed within one of the plug cut-out sections 62A or 62B. Alternatively, the clip 10 may be installed on the plug 2 by first inserting the first projection 16A into one of the plug openings 9A or 9B, and then pushing the clip 10 onto the plug 2 until the second projection 16B enters the other plug opening 9B, 9A.